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BOOK DEPARTMENT.

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REVIEWS.

Lehrbuch der Historischen Methode. Mit Nachweis der wichtigsten Quellen und Hilfsmittel zum Studium der Geschichte. Von ERNST BERNHEIM. Pp. 530. Leipzig: Duncker und Humblot. 1889.

This is an attempt to state in text-book form the position, methods and progress of historical science. Its success is proved by wide use and steadily gaining popularity. The style is clear, the matter chosen interesting, and the work scholarly. Professor Bernheim is preparing a new edition, and will be grateful for any references to American works on the subject. The six chapters treat respectively of the conception and nature of historical science, methodology, sources, criticism, treatment and exposition. The first two are general and introductory; the third is bibliographical; the fourth probably the most interesting and useful to the student; the fifth, the most scholarly, treats of the interpretation, combination and reproduction of material; the last is short, as it infringes on the domain of rhetoric. The illustrative material is drawn from all periods and from different countries. A large proportion is taken from the Middle Ages, because here historical method can be best illustrated, and the German examples are naturally the most numerous.

The author defines history as "the science of the development of men in their activity as social beings." In this he agrees with von Sybel, and antagonizes Lorenz's or Freeman's limitation to "political activity." This change from the classical point of view is common in Germany, and is due to the development of sociology and anthropology. Logically, from this definition, Bernheim repudiates the terms

"prehistoric" and "unhistoric." He neatly characterizes the phases of historical writing, and shows that only in the last, the "genetic," history has become a science. Throughout he argues against the conception of history as an art. Of especial interest are the portions on philosophy of history; subjective and objective histories; tracking down fables, such as those concerning Tell, "the true wives of Weinsberg," and the Moabite antiquities; recomposition of lost chronicles from fragments contained in other works; and the determination of the date, birthplace and authorship of a document.

This work has met with the most cordial reception. In Germany it is considered "one of the most excellent works of historical science in recent years." Dr. Vincent, who has used it at Johns Hopkins, says: "The best existing handbook on historical science. I think it is strong on the critical side rather than in the psychological analysis or psychological reconstruction of history. No other book that I know of contains the rules of criticism in better form." Among the useful features of the book are carefully selected bibliographies on all the topics treated. The author does not claim to settle any disputed points, but to make a fair statement of the arguments on either side. The book is full of practical suggestions, both general and most specialized, such as the best method of taking notes, or the meaning of "tamen" in Einhard's "Life of Charlemagne." Unfortunately, the use of this wealth of material is hindered by the lack of index and page-headings. In the forthcoming edition we trust that these aids, so essential to a text-book, will be furnished.

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L'Europe politique et sociale. Par MAURICE BLOCK. Deuxième édition, ouvrage entièrement nouveau, avec 18 cartes et 5 diagrammes. Pp. 586. Paris: Hachette et Cie. 1892.

This is a new edition of the work that appeared in 1869. The changes in Europe have been so great that it was necessary to rewrite rather than revise the former edition. M. Block's object is to explain rather than to advocate; to put into a book the results of the observation and study which he has for years given to the condition of Europe. The book is divided into three parts: Political Europe, Economic Europe and Social Europe. In the first part, the organization, territory, population, finances, and army and navy of each country are described. The second division of the work deals with the economic life of the several European nations, and treats of their agriculture, industry, commerce and means of communication. The